State of Washington
Department of Ecology
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

FFY 2002 Coastal Zone Management Grant Application
Sections 306, 306A, 309, and 6217

For the period July 1, 2002 through December 31, 2003

August 30, 2002

Chapter 3 -- Section 6217

Task 3.1 Managing Nonpoint Pollution in the Coastal Zone

Description

Washington's Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) is the basis for the non-point activities in the state. It describes the state's nonpoint source program, which includes all nonpoint efforts by federal, state, tribal, and local governments as well as volunteer programs carried out by the general public. The plan was developed to assess the state's needs regarding nonpoint source pollution and to meet federal water quality planning requirements under 319 of the Clean Water Act and Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990.

The activities described in this chapter will be carried out by the Department of Ecology's Water Quality Program and Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program. Each of the six activities implements an approved element(s) of the state's coastal nonpoint plan. In addition, three of the activities address priorities outlined in NOAA's FY'02 Coastal Nonpoint Program Implementation guidance. Activities SEA-2 and SEA-3 address priority #3, *Capacity building for state and local government.* Activity SEA-4 addresses priority # 2, *Improved management of septic systems.*

Water Quality Program Coastal Non-Point Work Plan

Joanne Schuett-Hames

WQ-1. Provide forest management tools to resource manager in the White River drainage basin. -- *(Forest Practices/Forestry Management Measure # IIA-Pre-harvest Planning, MM# IIB-Streamside Management Areas (SMAs),MM#IIC Road Construction, MM#IID Road Management, MM# IIE-Timber Harvesting – See page 126-138 WA Water Quality Management Plan to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution, April 2000)*
Ecology will continue efforts to address water quality and salmon issues in the Upper White River drainage basin. This work is crucial to the local, state, and federal governments who must manage the growth, development and natural resources within the watershed. The salmon of the White River system are considered one of the most threatened runs in western Washington. Bull trout and spring Chinook are both listed species. The health and management of the Upper White River is vital to support salmon. This work is part of an ongoing effort to simultaneously meet Clean Water Act and Endanger Species Act requirements in a forested system. Partners in the effort are Weyerhaeuser, State Department of Natural Resources, the US Forest Service and local governments. Ecology staff will also provide technical assistance and training on salmon recovery issues as they relate to nonpoint source pollution in an effort to further build capacity for other stakeholders to manage the resource.

Output:
This work will result in 3 products that build capacity for state and local governments to make decisions for expanding growth and development in the White River watershed. Those products are:

1. A Nonpoint Water Cleanup Plan, otherwise known as a Total Maximum Daily Load or TMDL, for the Upper White River.
2. A Temperature Data Report
3. A Scour and Flow Monitoring Report

Stan Ciuba

WQ-2. Provide storm water runoff treatment and management tools for private, local, state, and federal resource managers. -- *Urban Area Management Measure IIC Site Development, IIIA Construction Site Erosion and Sediment Control, IVA Existing Development, and VIIA-VIIF Planning, Sitting, and Developing Roads and Highways, Siting Designing and Maintaining Bridges, Highway and Bridge Construction Project Erosion and Sediment Operation and Maintenance, Road, Highway, and Bridge Stormwater Runoff systems (*which have been approved for Puget Sound only)*-See page 158, 163-166, 169 & page192-203, WA Water Quality Management Plan to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution, April 2000)*

Stormwater runoff treatment and management continues to be a major source of nonpoint pollution in Western Washington. Left unmanaged, it adversely affects human health, salmon habitat, drinking water and the ability of people to use the water. In an effort to build capacity for state and local governments to make decisions about growth and development, Ecology will provide technical assistance, prepare written products for managing nonpoint stormwater pollution, and evaluate new treatment technologies to control stormwater. Ecology will produce an update of its stormwater guidance manuals and best management practices manuals. They will also develop a process and web site for local and state governments to easily access new and emerging stormwater management technologies. Ecology will also evaluate these technologies to assure the quality and proper application of these technologies for stormwater managers.

Output:

This work will result in 3 products that build capacity for state and local governments to make decisions for expanding growth and development in the coastal zone. Those products are:

1. A revised Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan Guidance Manual
2. A revised Log Yard Best Management Practices Guidance Manual
3. A new internet web page that lists new stormwater treatment technologies and practices along with a protocol for adding and evaluating new technologies

Shoreline and Environmental Assistance Program Coastal Non-Point Work Plan

S. Craig, K. Jennings, B. Duffy

SEA-1. Watershed Protection -- *(Urban Area Management Measure #IIB-Watershed Protection - See page 161 & 162, WA Water Quality Management Plan to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution, April 2000)*

Staff will devote full time as the agency lead in coordinating water resource, water quality, stream flow and habitat management activities relative to implementation of the

state Watershed Planning Act. Responsibilities include representing the Department of Ecology and other state agencies in a 4-year, statewide planning effort involving attendance at monthly watershed planning meetings and coordination of technical assistance support across programs and agencies. Specific activities include:

- Represent the Department of Ecology on the Nisqually River Council, Puyallup River Watershed Council and the Chehalis Basin Partnership.
- Represent the Department of Ecology and other State agencies not directly represented on the Chambers/Clover Creek Planning Unit, Lyre/Hoko Planning Unit, Sol Duc/Hoh Planning Unit, Nisqually Planning Unit and the Deschutes Planning Unit formed under the provisions of the Watershed Planning Act
- Coordinate cross-program and interagency activities in all listed watersheds.
- Assist in developing a local/state data-information management partnership.
- Provide technical and policy guidance and assistance.

These objectives will be accomplished through the Growth Management Act, Watershed Planning Act, State Environmental Policy Act, and the Salmon Restoration Act. These regulations are designed to protect critical or environmentally sensitive areas such as: wetlands; areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water; fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas; frequently flooded areas; and geologically hazardous areas

A. McMillan
SEA-2. Best Available Science for Wetlands and Watershed Protection -- *(Urban Area Management Measure #Areas MM# IIB- Watershed Protection – See page 161,& 162 WA Water Quality Management Plan to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution, April 2000. This task also meets #3 "Capacity building for state and local government" recommended in NOAA's FY'02 Coastal Nonpoint Program Implementation)*

A 1995 amendment to the Growth Management Act (GMA) requires that all cities and counties in Washington include the best available science when developing their critical-area policies and regulations. All local jurisdictions are required to update their critical area ordinances within the next 2-4 years. Ecology is coordinating the development of new documents that will summarize the current scientific information on freshwater wetlands and provide management options and recommendations for local governments to apply to their ordinance updates.

A two-volume document will be written for local planners. The first volume will be a synthesis of the best science currently available on freshwater wetlands. The scientific information documented in the literature will be collected and summarized. The second volume will provide management options and recommendations for protecting wetlands and managing the effects from development and other human activities. Based on the information presented in volume one, the options and recommendations will include best management practices, mitigation measures, buffers, and other effective measures. Ecology staff will coordinate this project working with local, state and federal government staff, stakeholder groups, and the scientific community.

J. Rubey

SEA-3. Wetland Stewardship Tasks -- *(Urban Area Management Measure #Areas MM# IIB- Watershed Protection - See page, pages 161,& 162 WA Water Quality Management Plan to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution, April 2000. This task also meets #3 "Capacity building for state and local government" recommended in NOAA's FY'02 Coastal Nonpoint Program Implementation)*

Building the capacity of state and local government is a main focus of the work undertaken under the heading of wetlands stewardship. Wetland stewardship tasks include the provision of technical assistance to local and state players working on watershed recovery efforts to address a broad range of issues such as water quality, habitat, flood attenuation, etc. Stewardship focuses on building the non-regulatory capacity of communities to address watershed problems by preserving and restoring key wetlands that provide these functions. During this year the two areas of attention will be on providing updated information materials about incentive opportunities and funding program directories in Washington, and continuing to build Ecology's technical and funding project support role of directly helping local communities both acquire and restore wetlands that are critical to their watersheds. The wetland stewardship tasks address both program development and ecosystem program needs under "loss of aquatic ecosystems", while also providing an educational component as well.

D. Henry

SEA-4. North Puget Sound and Skagit River Watershed Nonpoint Pollution Projects -- *(Urban Area Management Measure #IIB-Watershed Protection – See page 161, in WA Water Quality Management Plan to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution, April 2000. This task also meets #2 "Improved management of septic systems" recommended in NOAA's FY'02 Coastal Nonpoint Program Implementation)*

This task encompasses multiple field and program-oriented non-point reduction activities within North Puget Sound and the Skagit River Watershed:

- Continue on-going efforts with regional farmers and landowners in testing various pollution-reduction strategies throughout the watershed and co-sponsor workshop for technical information transfer.
- Continue sponsorship of citizen water quality monitoring with trained volunteers and by PBNERR staff working within DOE-approved QA/QC guidelines.
- Coordinate with and assist the regional watershed council, SEA and Water Quality staff from the Department of Ecology, and the salmon/habitat restoration program to implement regional restoration strategies and reduce non-point pollution in near shore habitats.
- Assist the Skagit Conservation District and State Department of Health with education and monitoring needs related to recent shellfish harvest closures; implement a targeted education program in the problem areas.

Deliverables

- Semiannual reports N. Puget Sound/Skagit River Watershed Projects
- Semiannual reports on Watershed Protection Projects
- Semiannual reports on Object 1 and copies of Output products
- Semiannual reports on Objective 2 and copies of Output products
- Best Available Science A two-volume document written for local planners
- Semiannual report on Wetland Stewardship task

Chapter 2 -- Section 309

Task 2.1 Implementation of Legislative Changes to the Shoreline Management Act

Description

In 1995, the Washington State legislature amended the Shoreline Management Act (SMA), triggering a need to update Washington's nearly three decade old shoreline master program guidelines (Chapter 173-16 WAC).

The guidelines establish minimum requirements for local master programs, addressing a wide variety of issues including but not limited to shoreline armoring, protecting and restoring shoreline vegetation, Shorelines and Growth Management and critical areas integration, preferred uses and the secondary and cumulative impacts of growth. On November 29, 2000 Ecology adopted the new guidelines as WAC 173-26 Parts III and IV. The guidelines were designed to achieve multiple goals, including:

- Effective and efficient implementation of SMA and CZMA policy.
- Compatibility with Endangered Species Act objectives (particularly in Part IV).
- Support of state 6217 program development and implementation.
- Flexibility to address different local settings and environments.
- Provisions that represent good science, good law, and good policy that preserve the state's interest in shorelines and coastal management.
- Integration with other state and local programs addressing the same geographic area including GMA planning and critical areas requirements and flood plains management.
- Implementation at the lowest possible cost.

Within a month of Ecology's adoption, the guidelines were appealed to the State Shorelines Hearings Board (SHB). On Aug. 27, 2001 in a split decision, the SHB invalidated the guidelines in their entirety. The board held that the department did not have authority to implement the ESA through the guidelines and that the adoption process did not comply with certain Administrative Procedures Act requirements. The parties involved in the appeal have agreed to pursue a settlement on the new shorelines guidelines through facilitated negotiations, while at the same time preserving their legal standing in the lawsuit. A hearing in Thurston Superior Court is scheduled for June 7, 2002. The negotiations team anticipates concluding their work before the hearing. Until this issue is resolved, interim guidance to local governments is needed, since many are proceeding with update of their GMA critical areas ordinances and SMPs. Interim guidance must address what rules are in effect, the current standards for review of SMP amendments and how to conduct shoreline inventories in preparation for SMP and critical areas updates.

Work Plan

P. Skowlund

Until new guidelines are adopted Ecology will:

- Compile emerging science and applied methodology in shorelines and coastal zone management
- Keep Ecology's SMA and guidelines web site up-to-date with current sources of shorelines and coastal zone data and information
- Develop draft, updated SMP Guidance
- Coordinate local government CZM grants to support the development of methodologies needed to implement new SMP guidelines

- Offer workshops and technical assistance to local governments updating their local SMPs
- Participate in NOAA's Demonstration Project preparing a programmatic biological assessment/EIS for the guidelines, together with NMFS, USFWS and OCRM
- Work with the state legislature to establish adequate timeframes and funding for local shoreline program updates in the coastal zone
- Draft SMP guidelines revisions agreed to in the guidelines negotiations or resulting from litigation, where consistent with CZMA and SMA policy

Task 2.2 Update Wetlands Rating Systems

T. Hruby

Description

Ecology developed wetland rating systems for categorizing wetlands under regulatory programs over 10 years ago. These rating systems provide the foundation for establishing wetland protection standards in state and local government regulations. Since the first rating systems were developed much has been learned in the science of wetland protection, and the application of these rating systems by local jurisdictions in their regulatory programs. Given the emphasis on critical areas ordinance improvements under the Growth Management Act, it is timely to revisit the Western Washington Rating Systems and update both the criteria and methodology.

Work Plan

A process will be undertaken to contact stakeholder groups in each area of the state to scope out the issues needing attention. Working in collaboration with local jurisdictions, state agencies, and the technical community, updated edition of Western Washington Rating Systems will be developed and distributed.

Deliverables

Semiannual reports on the following:

- Updated draft sections of the shoreline management guidebook
- Outreach materials for all interested parties
- Local government training seminars/workshops, as resources allow, aimed primarily at shoreline inventory and analysis
- Updated Shoreline Management Web-site

- Conduct new guidelines rule adoption process, at conclusion of negotiations or litigation
- Updated version of Wetlands Rating System

Washington Shorelands & Environmental Assistance Program
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Chapter 1 -- Section 306/306A

Task 1.1 Coastal Zone Management

Description

The Department of Ecology administers Washington's Coastal Zone Management Program by engaging in a variety of regulatory and non-regulatory activities in the coastal zone. This task calls out coastal zone management activities that support program development or that cross over various statutory authorities. It includes activities related to coastal policy, CZM program administration, technical and financial support to local governments and other coastal decision-makers, and public outreach.

Work Plan

B. Lynn

Coastal Policy

Policy Analysis -- Staff will review and respond to proposed state and federal policy initiatives that impact Washington's coastal resources. This includes issues such as Outer Continental Shelf leasing, CZMA reauthorization, ocean policy, and proposed state legislation related to Washington's Coastal Zone Management Program.

ESA Consultation – SEA staff will coordinate with National Marine Fisheries Service and OCRM on ESA section 7 issues, especially as they relate to the state's CZM funding.

L. Rankin

CZM Program Administration

Coastal Zone Management Grant -- Staff will prepare the federal CZM grant application, track its progress, request necessary changes, and prepare semi-annual reports.

Routine Program Changes -- Ecology will continue to review and make necessary changes to our Coastal Zone Management Document. Ecology will submit Routine Program Change documentation to OCRM on a routine basis.

306 Coordination with 6217 - Brian

The SEA Program will complete the Wetland and Hydromodification Management Measures for Washington's Water Quality Plan to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution by December 31, 2002.

Financial Support

A. Schisel, S. Lange, B. Fritzen, B. Wenger, R. Davis, J. Stewart, C. Donoghue, G. Kaminsky, P. Lund

Coastal Zone Management Grants to Locals -- Approximately $400,000 of Washington's Coastal Zone Management grant funds will be passed through for local government project assistance. Projects will include improvements to local Shoreline Master Programs (SMPs), integration with growth management planning, special shoreline planning and education projects, and 306A public access construction or acquisition projects. Individual grant awards will generally range

between five and fifty thousand dollars and will require a 50% match by the recipient.

Technical Support

Technical Assistance -- The SEA Program will continue efforts to provide information for improved coastal decision-making. Coastal zone staff will provide technical assistance on shoreline erosion, coastal hazards, coastal geology, and CZMA policy, and shoreline management to other Ecology staff, state agencies, local governments, and the public. Topics will include bioengineering, floodplain management, coastal processes, shoreline permit administration, and enforcement.

Doug Canning

Coastal Planners Meetings -- Ecology staff, working with Sea Grant, will co-sponsor quarterly meetings with planners working in the coastal zone. The purpose of the meetings will be to share information and provide focused technical assistance to local governments. The topics of the meetings will vary, as will the locations in which the meetings are held.

Watershed Planning -- SEA staff will provide support to watershed planning staff and local planning entities.

Tim Gates

Public Outreach

Publication Management -- Ecology will publish, market, and distribute coastal zone education materials produced under previous grants. Materials include landowner guides, teacher resource materials (publications, posters, videos) and technical assistance guidebooks for local governments. Many of these documents have been or will be digitized and made available through the SEA Program Web Site.

Coastal Information – Several coastal jurisdictions are in the process of updating their shoreline inventories, and many more will be doing so in the coming years. The SEA Program will continue to compile coastal data and information and make it available to local governments and others via CDs and the Web.

Web Site -- The SEA Program will also continue to enhance its web site to improve its value for disseminating coastal management information about Washington State. The site offers information and guidance on a variety of coastal management issues. The information will be useful for local governments and other coastal decision makers, citizens, and businesses.

Deliverables

- Semiannual updates on all coastal policy and planning activities
- Routine Program Changes to WCZMP will be done semiannually
- Semiannual report on meetings with coastal planners
- Complete Wetland and Hydromodification MM 12/31/02

Task 1.2 Shoreline Management

Description

The State Shoreline Management Act is the foundation of Washington's Coastal Zone Management Program. Washington's Shoreline Management Act (SMA) was passed by the Legislature in 1971 and adopted by the public in a 1972 referendum. The goal of the SMA is "to prevent the inherent harm in an uncoordinated and piecemeal development of the state's shorelines." The SMA establishes a cooperative program between local and state governments, in which local government develops and administers Shoreline Master Programs, and Ecology provides support and oversight to assure that state laws and regulations are adequately reflected

Work Plan

D. Bales, J. Stewart, K. Van Zwalenburg, A. Schisel, B. Fritzen, B. Wenger, J. Velikanje, S. Lange

Shoreline Permits -- City and county governments issue shoreline permits with review by Ecology. In some cases ("conditional use" and "variance" permits) Ecology approval is required. Ecology will review proposed coastal development and process shoreline permits for compliance with the SMA and the local Shoreline Master Program. Ecology will seek to enhance public access to the coastal zone through conditioning permits where appropriate. Ecology will deny or appeal to the Shorelines Hearings Board (SHB) inappropriate permit decisions of local governments.

J. Anest, A. Schisel, J. Sohneronne

Compliance and Enforcement – Enforcement plays a crucial role in assuring protection of fragile and unique shoreline environments, in preserving public use and enjoyment of shorelines, and in assuring implementation of shoreline management decisions. As in other areas of land use regulation, adoption of shoreline regulation and policies provides no guarantee of compliance. Landowners and developers may be unaware of SMA or SMP requirements; permit conditions may be ambiguous, leading to unwitting violations; or people may simply choose to proceed with development in disregard of regulations.

Ecology's enforcement actions will focus on developments that have occurred without permits, or which violate the conditions of a permit. Emphasis will be placed on violations where shoreline resources are damaged or threatened. Orders to restore the shoreline, civil penalties, notices of correction and letters of inquiry will be used as appropriate.

In 1999, the SEA Program created the Compliance Workgroup to provide Ecology staff with a forum to evaluate and discuss compliance decisions. "Compliance" includes both enforcement and certain permit administration questions. The Workgroup has met monthly since that time, has discussed dozens of permit and enforcement decisions and has written two policy documents. Examples of issues discussed include: Under what circumstances is it best to use a warning letter or Notice of Correction instead of an order or penalty? What sort of technical assistance website would best serve regional staff and local government administrators?

We have also monitored a subset of permits for compliance with specific conditions. We have done follow up site inspections on 25% of the variances and conditional use permits that Ecology has approved for each of the past three years. Because it takes some years for shoreline projects to be completed and the impacts known, we have monitored projects permitted four years previous. Regional staff has found these efforts useful to improve their drafting of future permit conditions.

R. Davis, A. Schisel, B. Fritzen, B. Wenger, S. Lange
Shoreline Master Program Review -- Under the SMA, all counties and incorporated cities having shorelines must develop and administer a Shoreline Master Program (SMP). The SMP identifies development and conservation policies, establishes shoreline environment designations (urban, rural, conservancy, and natural), and specifies allowable uses and development standards for each environment. Ecology encourages and supports local governments to improve their SMPs. Changes to SMPs must be approved by Ecology.

Shorelands staff will work closely with local governments to ensure SMPs remain responsive to changing conditions. Ecology will review SMP changes for compliance with the SMA and its guidelines (when adopted). Ecology will continue to provide technical assistance to local and state shoreline administrators on providing public access through implementation of SMPs.

Shorelands staff offers shoreline and coastal management technical assistance to local governments through daily phone and email contacts and through site visits. Assistance includes providing written comments during the SEPA process, making jurisdictional calls when requested, interpreting SMA requirements, helping to identify needed improvements in local master programs, and identifying potential grant funding opportunities.

Deliverables

- Documentation of permit review, participation in SHB cases, enforcement actions, and master program amendments will be reported semiannually

Task 1.3 Wetlands Management

Description

The Shoreline Management Act (SMA) and the state's responsibilities under Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) are the primary drivers for Ecology's wetland management activities. The SMA applies to wetland areas associated with streams, lakes and marine waters that are designated as shorelines. Section 404 of the CWA requires that projects that propose to discharge dredge or fill material in water areas and wetlands obtain a permit from the Corps of Engineers. Ecology is the state agency designated to implement Section 401 of the Clean Water Act by issuing water quality certifications for those projects seeking 404 permits. The area covered by 404 authorities includes shoreline and non-shoreline wetlands.

Additionally, the Growth Management Act provides significant opportunities for protecting wetlands through local government wetland regulatory programs. Ecology plays a major role in helping ensure that local wetland regulations are based on the best available science and are implemented appropriately. Ecology provides technical and policy assistance to cities and counties in the development and implementation of local wetland regulations.

Work Plan

A. Boeholt, P. Lund, B. Murphy, S. Meyer, E. Stockdale, S. Suggs

Wetlands Technical Assistance -- Ecology staff will provide technical assistance to local governments, other agencies, and public groups on developing and implementing wetland protection measures. Technical assistance includes confirming wetland boundaries, reviewing wetland reports, evaluating mitigation proposals, and testifying at local hearings on wetland projects. Ecology will also provide information and technical assistance to local governments on developing and revising local wetland policies and regulations. Ecology will conduct training workshops for local and state agencies on a range of wetland topics as time allows and in response to demand.

A. McMillan

Wetland Best Available Science Project – The Best Available Science project has been an ongoing project aimed at producing new guidance materials that synthesize current scientific knowledge on wetlands in Washington and provide recommendations for wetlands management. These will form the basis for recommendations to local governments on the development on local wetland regulations. This year, Ecology staff will complete the following products:

1. A synthesis of the best available science on wetland functions, land use impacts and effectiveness of management measures. (draft document – January 2003; final document – June, 2003)
2. Recommended management measures for protecting wetlands. (draft document – June, 2003

T. Granger

Wetlands Function Assessment Project – Washington's Wetlands Function Assessment Project – now in its 6th year – is a statewide effort to develop relatively rapid, scientifically acceptable methods of assessing how well wetlands perform functions such as improving water quality, reducing floods, and providing wildlife habitat. The methods are being developed for different wetland types in Washington State. In this grant year, Ecology staff will maintain an email distribution list to provide rapid response to questions from users of the methods and will provide training to users and decision-makers as time allows and in response to demand.

P. Johnson

Wetland Mitigation Improvement Project – In 1999, Ecology began an effort to evaluate compensatory mitigation success. The study has shown that significant improvements in wetland mitigation planning and implementation are needed. In this grant period, Ecology will implement recommendations from the Mitigation Evaluation Study including developing a compliance tracking program and revising existing guidance on wetland mitigation. Products will include:

1. A compliance tracking system for monitoring compliance of mitigation sites with permit conditions – January, 2003.
2. New guidance on mitigation policies and mitigation plan requirements – December, 2003.

S. Stanley

Wetland Restoration & Watershed Planning – Ecology will continue to facilitate the restoration of degraded wetlands through implementation and refinement of a watershed-based wetland restoration initiative for Puget Sound.

This year, coastal staff will develop new tools for applying our growing understanding of watershed-scale processes to wetland planning and permitting activities. Staff will also provide technical assistance to agencies, tribes, local jurisdictions, and organizations interested in non-regulatory wetland restoration within coastal counties.

In addition, staff will work strategically with Stillaguamish, Nooksack, and Snohomish Basin stakeholders to use Puget Sound Wetland Restoration Program watershed analysis products to maximize wetland restoration efforts in those river basins. Within coastal basins not having watershed-scale analyses, staff will work opportunistically to restore wetlands until a more strategic approach can be implemented through landscape-scale analyses.

S. Grigsby

Landscape Characterization – Ecology will facilitate continued development and implementation of landscape characterization tools within coastal counties. This is an ongoing task of the river basin characterization work undertaken in the Snohomish basin in King and Snohomish Counties. Through our collaborative effort with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (Battelle), we have determined a more efficient method to

develop the spatial database characterizing basin processes originally intended for Puget Sound watersheds (part "a" below). The conceptual framework developed from the river basin characterization work (i.e. understanding landscape scale processes necessary to protect wetland resources) is being incorporated into two tools for use at the permitting and planning level (parts "b" and "c"). The following tasks will be completed this year:

a) Develop methods for a spatially referenced database evaluating the changes in ecological processes for coastal watersheds through a collaborative effort with the Pacific Northwest Laboratory. Methods will initially be developed for the Chehalis Basin, with expected completion in the first quarter 2003. A schedule for completion of additional coastal basins will be developed for fiscal year 2003.

b) Develop technical guidance for watershed assessment required to assist local jurisdictions in complying with the anticipated Shoreline Management rule followed by technical support for local jurisdictions during implementation. An initial product is a landscape based assessment for wetland restoration in the Drayton Harbor watershed, report scheduled for completion in fall, 2002.

c) Continue efforts to integrate landscape characterization tools into the Puget Sound Wetland Restoration Program as well as Ecology's regulatory wetland program through the development of a landscape-based evaluation tool for restoration/ mitigation proposals. This web-based tool is planned for release in spring, 2003.

Deliverables

- Semiannual reports on technical assistance activities
- Guidance documents on wetlands best available science and wetland mitigation (revised)
- Report on all training workshops for local governments and wetland professionals
- Develop wetland mitigation compliance tracking system

Task 1.4 State Environmental Policy Act

Description

The State environmental Policy Act (SEPA) was adopted in 1971 to ensure that state and local agency decision-makers consider the environmental consequences of their actions. Ecology staff provide training and guidance for state and local agencies, and the public. Staff also manage the SEPA Register, providing public notice of all SEPA actions on the Internet.

Work Plan

B. Ritchie

Training and Guidance -- Ecology staff will provide technical assistance to local governments, other agencies, and the public on environmental review and SEPA implementation. Ecology will also conduct training workshops for local and state agencies on rule interpretation and amendments.

Deliverables

- Semiannual reports on SEPA documents received and processed

Task 1.5 Federal Permitting

Description

Ecology issues 401 Water Quality Certifications and Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Concurrence Determinations for water-related construction projects. The goals are to minimize environmental impacts by ensuring these projects comply with state environmental requirements, and to provide a coordinated state response on federal permitting actions by working closely with several federal, state, and local agencies.

Work Plan

L. Randall, H. Pressley, A. Kelly

Clean Water Act Section 404/401 Review -- Ecology will use the authority of the federal Clean Water Act to protect wetlands, primarily through review of Section 404 permits and granting of Section 401 Water Quality Certifications.

L. Rankin

Federal Consistency Certifications -- Section 307 of the CZMA directs federal agencies to assure that their activities are consistent with the State's approved CZM program. Ecology will review CZM consistency certifications made by federal agencies and applicants for federal permits and financial assistance.

Deliverables

- Semiannual charts detailing 401 and federal consistency activities

Task 1.6 Padilla Bay Reserve

Description

The Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, located in Skagit County, is one of a series of reserves established under the Coastal Zone Management Act. The reserves are established for estuarine protection, long-term research, education and interpretation. At Padilla Bay, this includes ownership of tidelands and uplands, plus research, educational and interpretive facilities at the Breazeale/Padilla Bay Interpretive Center. The Reserve offers an ongoing education program for K-12 students, teachers training workshops, and exhibits, field trips and workshops for adult and family audiences.

Work Plan

S. Riggs

Estuarine Education and Information -- PBNERR staff will work directly with 8,000-12,000 students, teachers, administrators and local/regional government staff in implementation of several education programs, both on and off-site. This will include direct contact with students in estuarine, coastal and watershed protection; training workshops for educators; workshops for health, SMA, and water-quality regulators on coastal non-point issues (agriculture and septic systems), and sponsorship of additional training events related to priority CZM/SMA issues. Also, contributions will be made to regional and national publications on topics related to the above issues.

Deliverables

- Semiannual reports on all Padilla Bay Education and Information Projects